the world; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BALLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The ASSOCHAM has represented to the Government to remove constraints which emanate from problems of infrastructure particularly in ports, airports, availability of railway wagons and roads. They have also requested the Government, inter-alia to make the SAFTA an effective forum, establish parity of Rupee and Dollar, establish better relations with ASEAN countries, improve product-mix for export, promote Indian Brand Equity, set up Warehousing facilities abroad, combat non-tariff barriers and establish quality management.

(c) and (d) The Government facilities efforts to explore new market and products. A number of markets were explored for specific exports during the last year which include South Africa Botswana, Swaziland, Argentina, Brazil and Israel. The border trade with Myemmar, is also being promoted. The medium term export strategy being formulated by the Ministry will include efforts to widen our presence by expanding exports to cover new markets which are important globally.

Import alRBD Pafmoline through STC

2200. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently decided to import the RBD Palmoline on F.O.B. through STC instead of C&F and whether any representation has been received in this regard; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that that Government had suffered a loss of huge quantity of foreign exchange by importing the oil on C&F basis and intermediaries has made huge profits by importing thi soil through STC on C&F basis; and

(c) by when the import of this oil FOB is to start; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAMIAH): (a) to (c) STC is the canalising agency for import of RBD almoline or supply under Public Distribution System as per the connected policy of the Govt. in the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs In terms of the existing policy, while all import contracts are to be finalised on FOB basis; STC has been importing edible oil for PDS for a number of years of CIF (Cost Insurance Freight) terms after obtaining necessary exemption from the Ministry of Surface Transport as CIF imports are more convenient and economical.

An individual representation has been received, in which a plea has been made to effect import of food items on FOB basis.

Since the year 1990-91, STC has, however, been incurring losses in its edible oil operations for PDS mainly due to the devaluation of the Rupee and the actual landed cost of the imported palmoline being higher than the Central Issue Price charged from the States. The Govt. has been recouping the deficit in Edible Oil Account by providing financial assistance to STC from time to time.

As a matter of policy for the import of edible oils, STC deals directly on principal to principal basis without intermediaries.

Shifting of items from social import licence list to OGL, lists

2201. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently

shifted a number of items from special import licence list to the Open General Licence (OGL) List and from restricted list to the Special Import Licence List;

(b) if so, the details thereof, item-wise and the approximate duty Government are likely to earn annually; and

(c) the impact on indigenous industries due to this change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Item-wise import policy of various item is indicated in the ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and import Items, announced on 31-03-97, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

It is too early to assess the annual income earning as well as the impact on the indigenous industries due to change in policy.

Coffee stabilisation fund

2202. DR. B. B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a "Coffee Stabilisation Fund" by levying export duty on coffee to insulate domestic market when prices shootup;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also considering to bring coffee under Open General Licence (OGL) import scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to check current escalation in domestic prices of coffee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not aries.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The coffee price realised is a function of demand and supply. Moreover, the domestic prices of coffee have started declining and at present these are mostly at par with the international prices.

भारतीय औद्योगिक विकास बैंक द्वारा वित्तीय सहायता

2203. **श्री चोमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला** : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारतीय औद्योगिक विकास बैंक ने बहुराष्ट्रिक विद्युत कंपनियों को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने का प्रस्ताव किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके लिए क्या मानदण्ड निर्धारित किए गए हैं और इन कंपनियों को कितनी वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान की जाएगी ;

(ग) आज की तिथि के अनुसार अब तक कुल कितनी धनराशि प्रदान की गई ;

(घ) क्या देश में विद्युत परियोजनाओं और बहुराष्ट्रिक कंपनियों को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने के संबंध में भारतीय औद्योगिक विकास बैंक की कोई सुस्पष्ट परिभाषित नीति है ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज) : (क) से (ङ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

ADB loan for development projects

2204. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country is to get ADB loan or more than